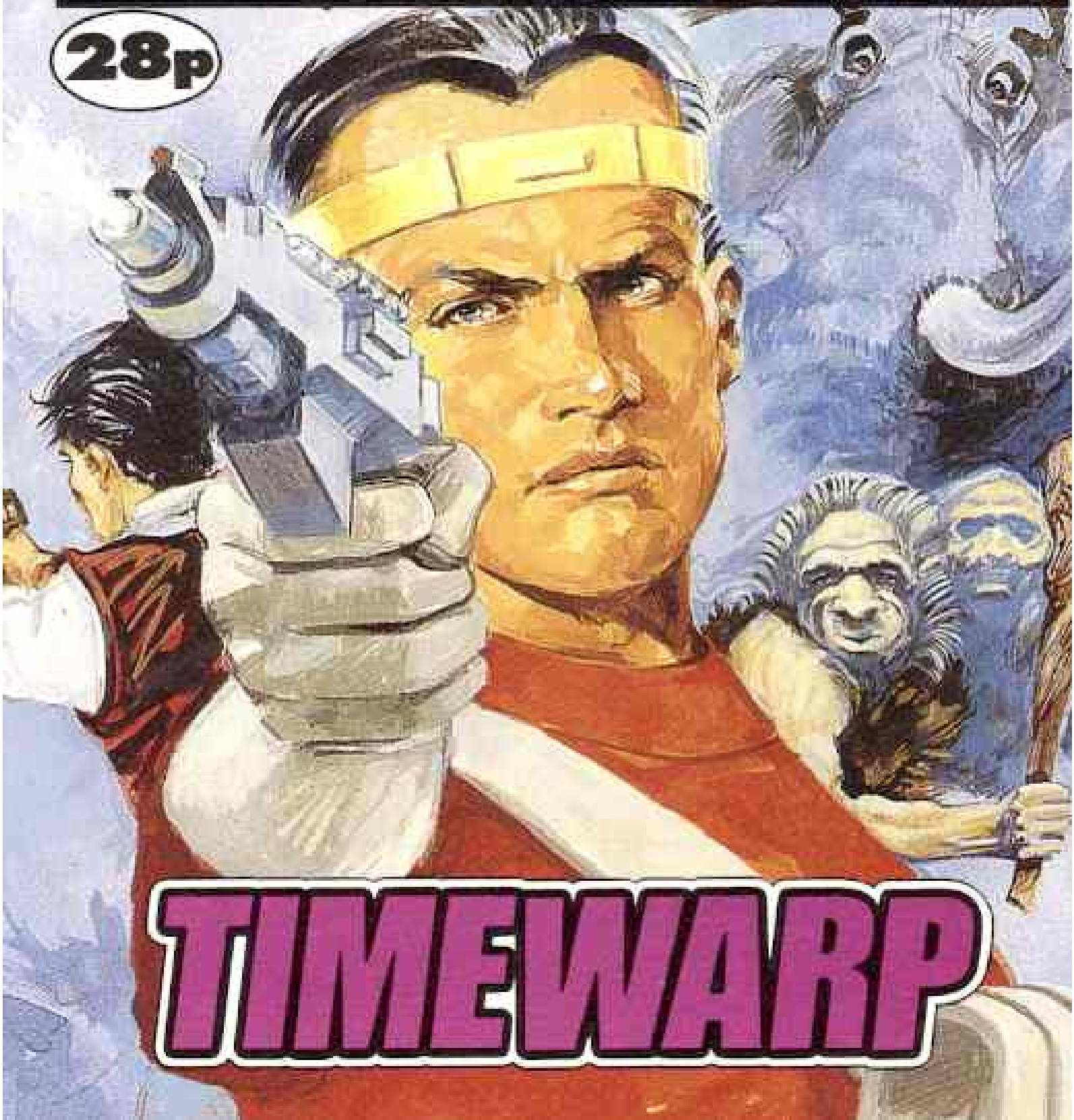
STARBLAZER

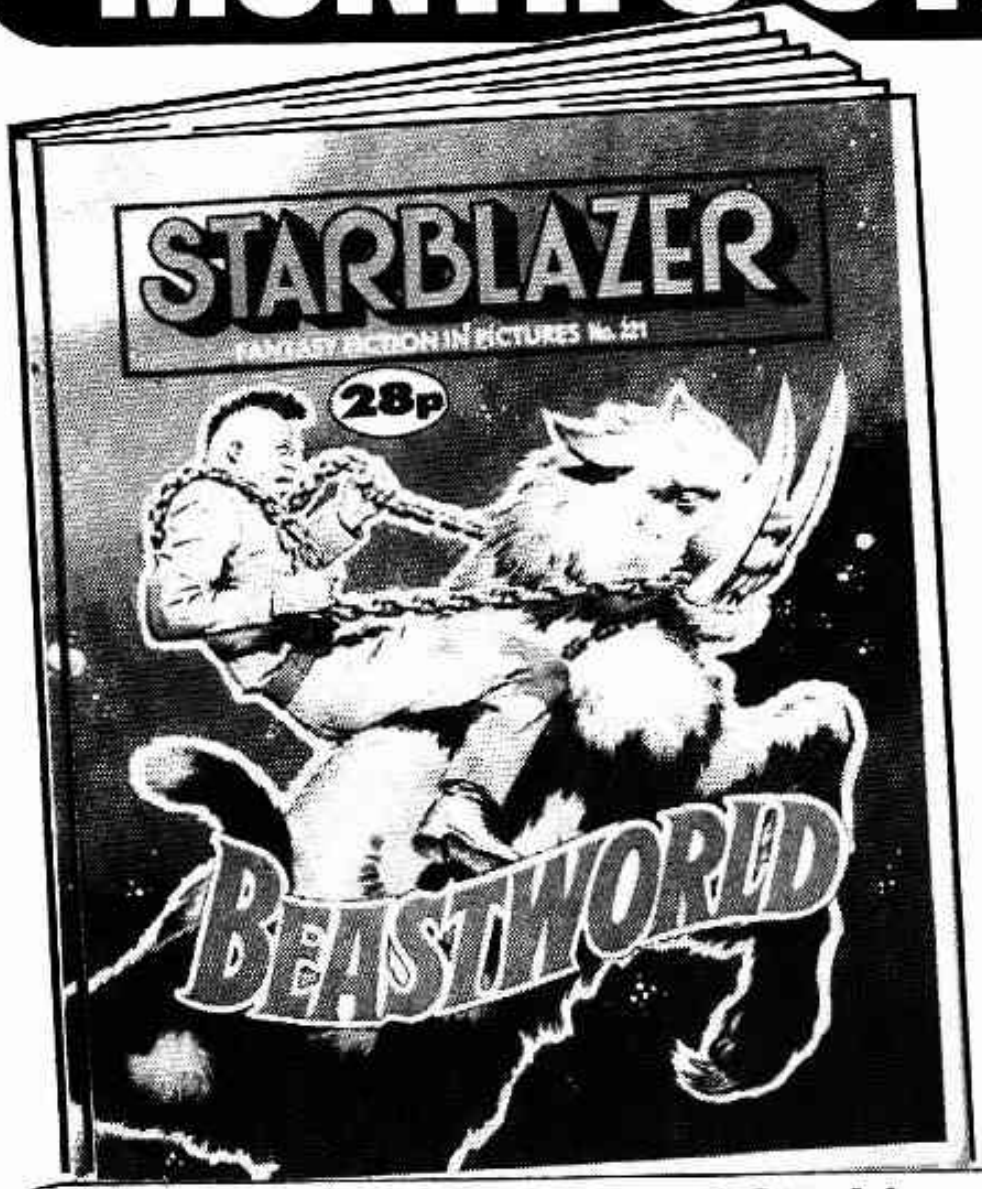
FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 220

28p



TIMEWARP

DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S OTHER



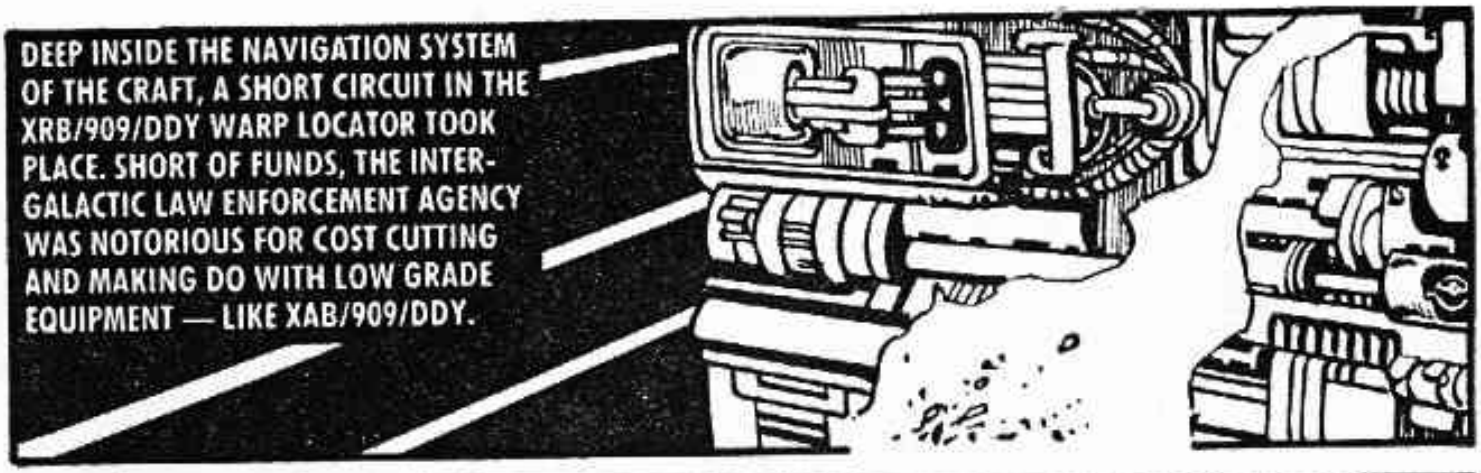
NOW ON SALE

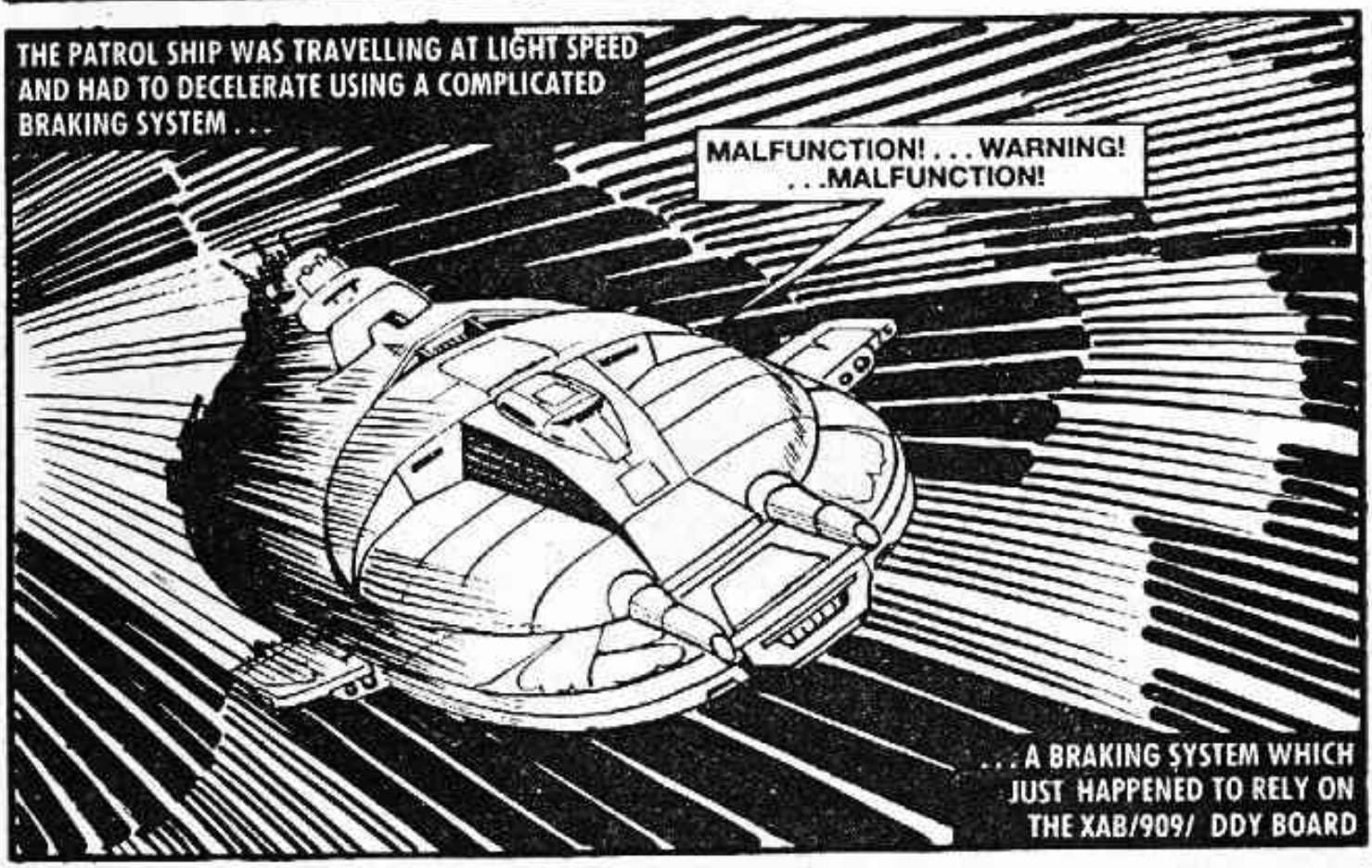
Have you missed a copy of Starblazer? Well, we can prevent it happening again — with an annual subscription. All you have to do is write for details to STARBLAZER SUBSCRIPTIONS, D. C. THOMSON & CO., LTD., BANK STREET, DUNDEE DD1 9HU. enclosing an SAE for your reply.

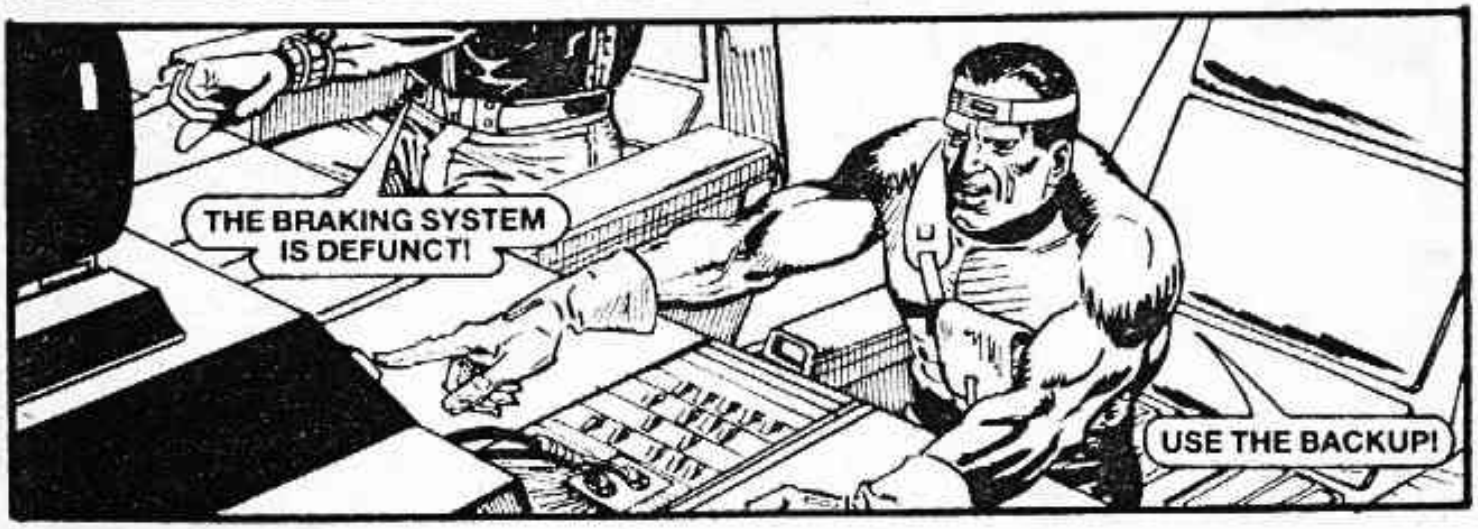
TIMEWARP

IT WAS THE 32ND CENTURY AND CARTER ALONG WITH JUNIOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER NOLAN, WERE ON A ROUTINE MISSION TO COLLECT A PAROLE JUMPER. THEIR DESTINATION WAS EARTH, A PLANET NOW PRESERVED AS A LIVING MUSEUM OF MANKIND'S ACHIEVEMENTS. POPULATED ONLY BY A HANDFUL OF TECHNICIANS, HISTORIANS . . . AND ONE CRIMINAL . . . IT HAD SEEMED A PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE. UNTIL CARTER TRACKED HIM DOWN . . .
THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO EARTH, CARTER. OF COURSE I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT IT.

IT TOOK THEM YEARS TO CLEAN UP THE POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE! NOW IT'S PERFECTLY PRESERVED. A SHRINE TO OUR ANCESTORS!
JUST THEN THE MAIN COMPUTER SPOKE . . .
ATTENTION! DECELERATION ZONE IN 3.506 MINUTES!
CUT THE CHATTER AND GET STRAPPED IN!

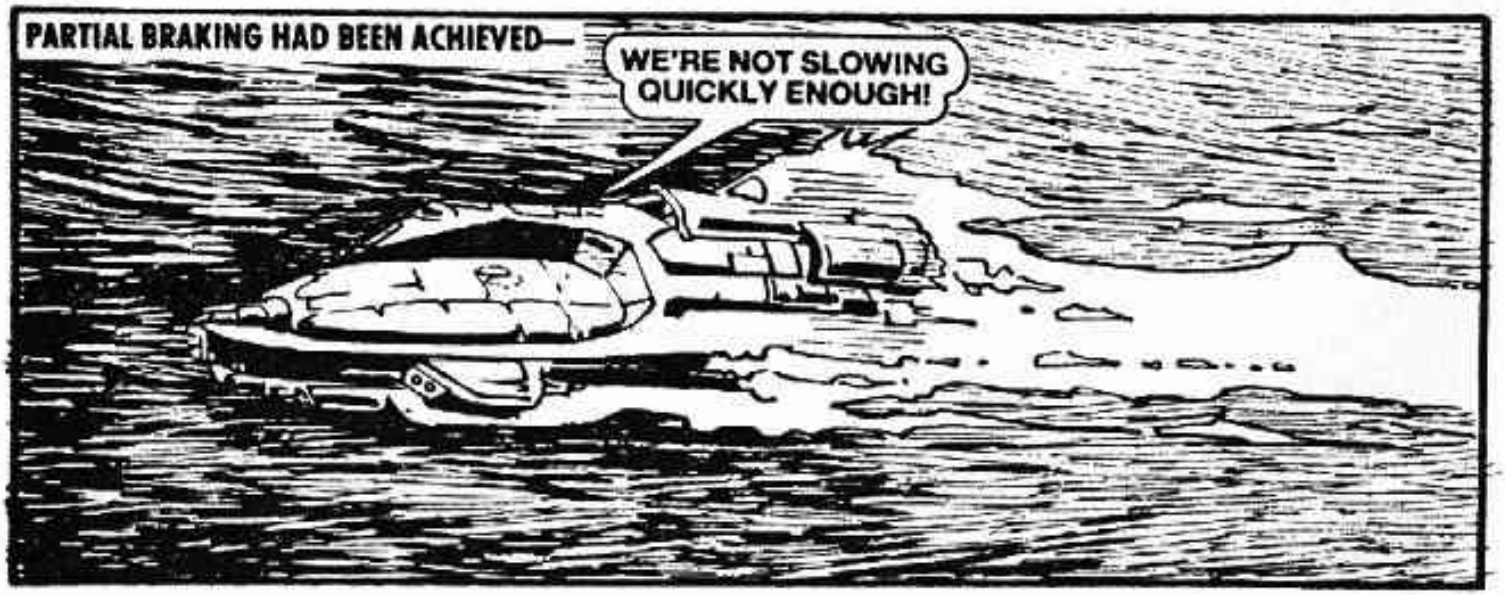

DEEP INSIDE THE NAVIGATION SYSTEM OF THE CRAFT, A SHORT CIRCUIT IN THE XRB/909/DDY WARP LOCATOR TOOK PLACE. SHORT OF FUNDS, THE INTER-GALACTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WAS NOTORIOUS FOR COST CUTTING AND MAKING DO WITH LOW GRADE EQUIPMENT — LIKE XAB/909/DDY.


THE PATROL SHIP WAS TRAVELLING AT LIGHT SPEED AND HAD TO DECELERATE USING A COMPLICATED BRAKING SYSTEM . . .
MALFUNCTION! . . . WARNING! . . .MALFUNCTION!
. . . A BRAKING SYSTEM WHICH JUST HAPPENED TO RELY ON THE XAB/909/ DDY BOARD


THE BRAKING SYSTEM IS DEFUNCT!
USE THE BACKUP!

THERE IS NO BACKUP. THE UNIT SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED DURING THE LAST SYSTEMS OVERHAUL. BUT CENTRAL ACCOUNTS DISPUTED THE COST. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS!
WE'RE ABOUT TO GET DISINTEGRATED BECAUSE OUR DEPARTMENT COULDN'T AFFORD TO REPLACE A SILICON CHIP.

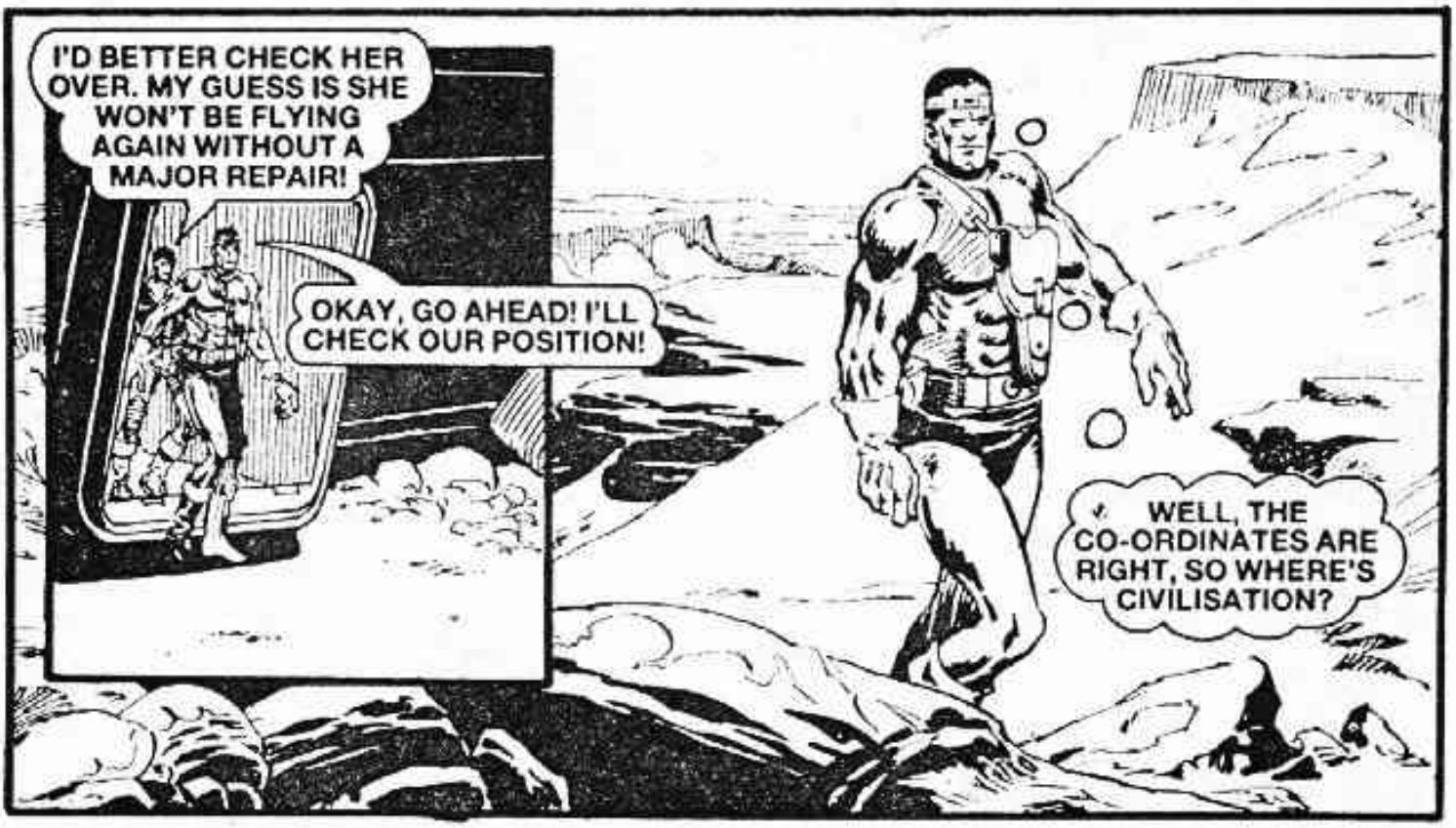

PARTIAL BRAKING HAD BEEN ACHIEVED—
WE'RE NOT SLOWING QUICKLY ENOUGH!

CARTER HAD AN IDEA . . .
IF I CAN GET TO THE MAIN REACTOR . . .

ONLY ONE . . . CHANCE! SHUT DOWN THE . . . ANTI-MATTER REACTOR!

FOR A MILLISECOND, TIME FROZE! THEN THE SHIP SLOWED IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
WE'VE ARRIVED!

THE CRAFT LANDED AT THE DESIGNATED CO-ORDINATES—
WHERE'S THE SPACEPORT?
DON'T SAY THE NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT IS ON THE BLINK!


I'D BETTER CHECK HER OVER. MY GUESS IS SHE WON'T BE FLYING AGAIN WITHOUT A MAJOR REPAIR!
OKAY, GO AHEAD! I'LL CHECK OUR POSITION!
WELL, THE CO-ORDINATES ARE RIGHT, SO WHERE'S CIVILISATION?

JUST THEN . . .
WHAT THE . . .?!!!!!

CARTER DIDN'T HESITATE—
BR-MMARH!
NO CHOICE! I MUST TERMINATE YOU!
BY THE TRIPLE MOONS OF ORINUS! WHAT IS THAT?
A PREHISTORIC EARTH ANIMAL OF THE SPECIES CALLED MASTODON! LATER TO DEVELOP INTO THE ELEPHANT.

AN ANDROID MUSEUM MODEL.
NO, THIS ONE IS . . . WAS . . . FLESH AND BLOOD!
BU. . . BUT HOW?

WE'RE OUT OF TIME . . . OUT OF OUR TIME!

A MILE AWAY—

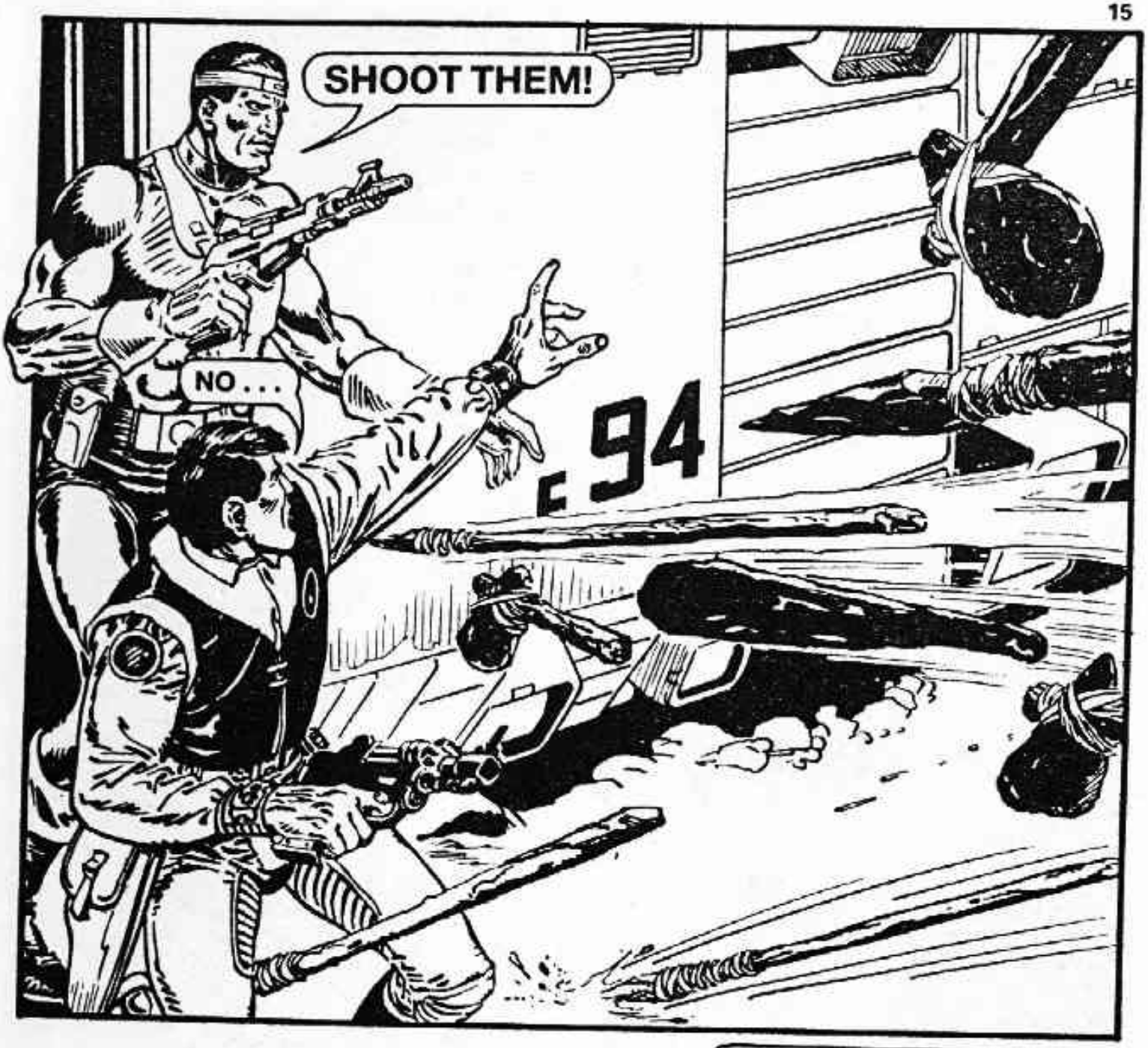
OOOOGRAHH!

SO WE'RE STUCK HERE! I WONDER WHAT MASTODON MEAT TASTES LIKE?
WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!! I DON'T WANT TO DIE BEFORE I'M BORN.
CARTER MADE A FEW INVESTIGATIONS—
BECAUSE WE DIDN'T BRAKE AT THE RIGHT TIME, WE OVERSHOT . . . NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET THIS UNIT TO JUMP US TO THE 32ND CENTURY.

MEANWHILE—
AN ULTRA-LOW POWERED BLAST FROM MY PHOTON PISTOL SHOULD COOK IT NICELY!

ZUM
WHAT THE . . . CARTER! COME OUT HERE!

WE HAVE COMPANY, SIR! AND THEY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY!
YOU HANDLE IT, NOLAN! I'M TRYING TO GET US OUT OF HERE!


SHOOT THEM!
NO . . .
£94

KILLING SOMEONE IN THE PAST WILL ALTER THE FUTURE! ANY ONE OF THOSE COULD BE OUR MEGA-GRANDFATHERS! AND IF THEY DON'T EXIST, NEITHER WILL WE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'D BETTER WAIT IT OUT — AND HOPE THEY DON'T HURT THEMSELVES TRYING TO GET IN HERE!

I'LL WORK ON THE REACTOR, NOLAN. YOU JUST SIT TIGHT!
RIGHT, SIR! PITY ABOUT THE MEAT — I WAS STARVING.
CLANK
TONK

CARTER FINISHED WORKING ON THE REACTOR —
WE ONLY BROUGHT ENOUGH RATIONS FOR THE TRIP HERE! EARTH CENTRE CONTROL WERE SUPPOSED TO RESTOCK THIS THING. ANOTHER FOUL-UP!
FOOD PROCESSOR TYPE BV/45
READY!
ALL CLEAR OUTSIDE, SIR! WE COULDN'T RISK HARMING ANYONE WHEN THIS CRATE TIME-SHIFTS!

HERE GOES! LET'S HOPE MY SYSTEM WORKS!

CARTER HAD RIGGED THE REACTOR SO THAT IT BECAME A DEMATERIALISING CHAMBER WHICH HURTLED THEIR ATOMS THROUGH TIME ITSELF.

I CAN'T USE FULL POWER OR THE REACTOR WILL GO CRITICAL — AND BLOW HALF THIS PLANET UP. SO WE HAVE TO TIME SHIFT IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS.
FINE . . . WHERE, OR WHEN ARE WE?
I'M NOT SURE . . . BUT IT'S SOME PLACE BETWEEN TEN THOUSAND B.C. AND 3200 AD.

THEY CAME TO A CLEARING . . .
WHAT'S THAT IN THE TREE STUMP?
A FORM OF PRIMITIVE WEAPON KNOWN AS A SWORD. THERE ARE SOME HISTORIANS WHO WOULD SELL THEIR SOULS TO SEE WHAT WE'RE SEEING.

IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT YEAR IT WAS!
ZAC!

CARTER REMOVED THE SWORD WITH LITTLE EFFORT — THANKS TO HIS IMPLANTED ANDROID STRENGTH.

HE IS THE ONE! HE HAS PULLED THE SWORD FROM THE SACRED TREE!
HE IS OUR SAVIOUR . . . OUR RIGHTFUL KING! KNEEL BEFORE HIM!

CARTER AND NOLAN WERE BEWILDERED.
I THINK THEY'RE WORSHIPPING YOU, SIR!
WHY?

ALTHOUGH THE PEASANTS SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE AS CARTER, THE DIFFERENCE IN ACCENTS AND DIALECT MADE CONVERSATION DIFFICULT.
OUR LORD WISHES TO EAT? WE MUST PREPARE A FEAST!
I THINK I'VE GOT THROUGH TO THEM. AT LEAST THEY SEEM A LITTLE MORE CIVILISED THAN THE LAST SPECIES OF HOMO-SAPIENS WE CAME ACROSS.

ANY IDEA OF THE YEAR WE'RE IN, SIR?
I'M A LAW OFFICER, NOT A HISTORIAN.

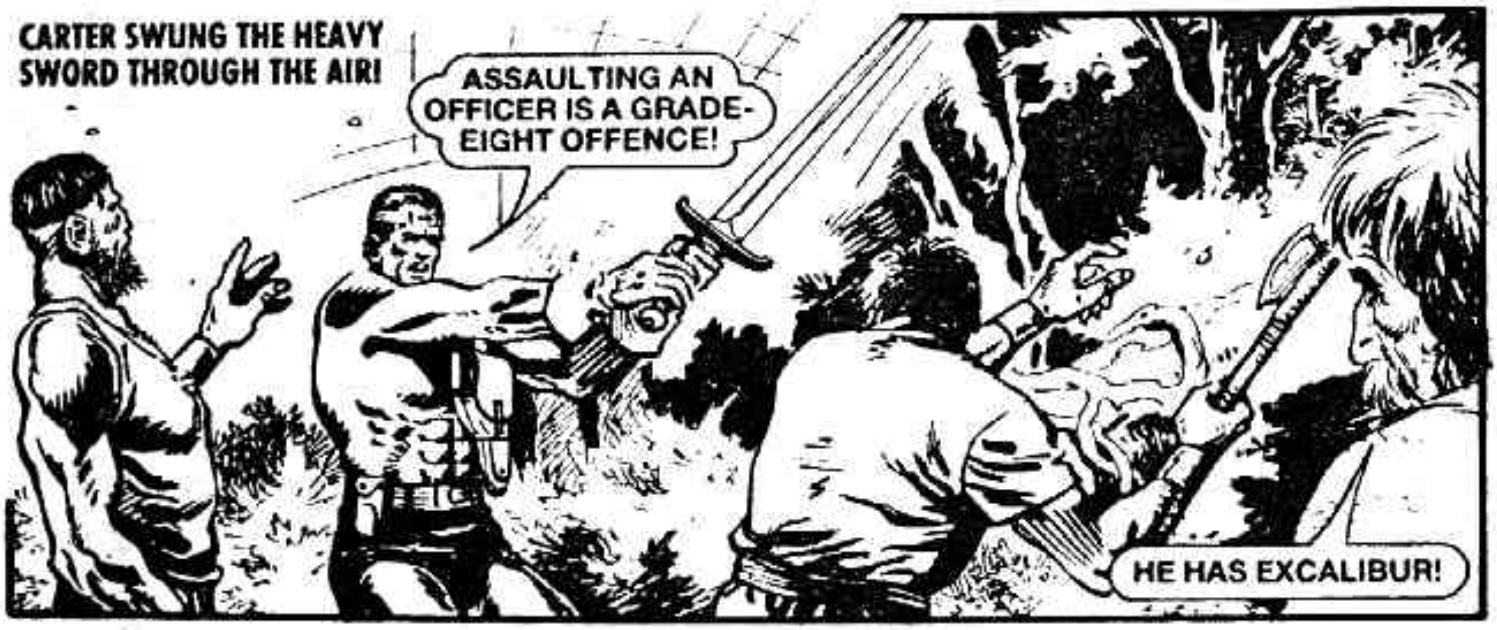
NOT FAR AWAY —
THE STRANGERS HAVE INTERFERED WITH THE PREDICTION! ARTHUR IS THE RIGHTFUL KING . . . AND THEY MUST DIE BEFORE THEY RUIN EVERYTHING!

LATER THAT NIGHT . . .
THIS PLACE STINKS, SIR!
STOP CALLING ME SIR. THE SYSTEM OF BASIC SANITATION IS SOMEWHAT PRIMITIVE, NOLAN . . . BUT THEN IN OUR LINE OF WORK WE'RE USED TO DEALING WITH DIRT!

TIME TO GET BACK TO THE SHIP.

THE PEASANTS MAY HAVE WORSHIPPED CARTER — BUT THE FIVE MEN WAITING IN THE DARKNESS DIDN'T BELONG TO THE SAME FAN CLUB!
SLAY THEM!
WHAT THE . . .?!

FREEEEH
UH-OH! I HAD A FEELING THINGS WERE GOING TOO WELL!


CARTER SWUNG THE HEAVY SWORD THROUGH THE AIR!
ASSAULTING AN OFFICER IS A GRADE-EIGHT OFFENCE!
HE HAS EXCALIBUR!

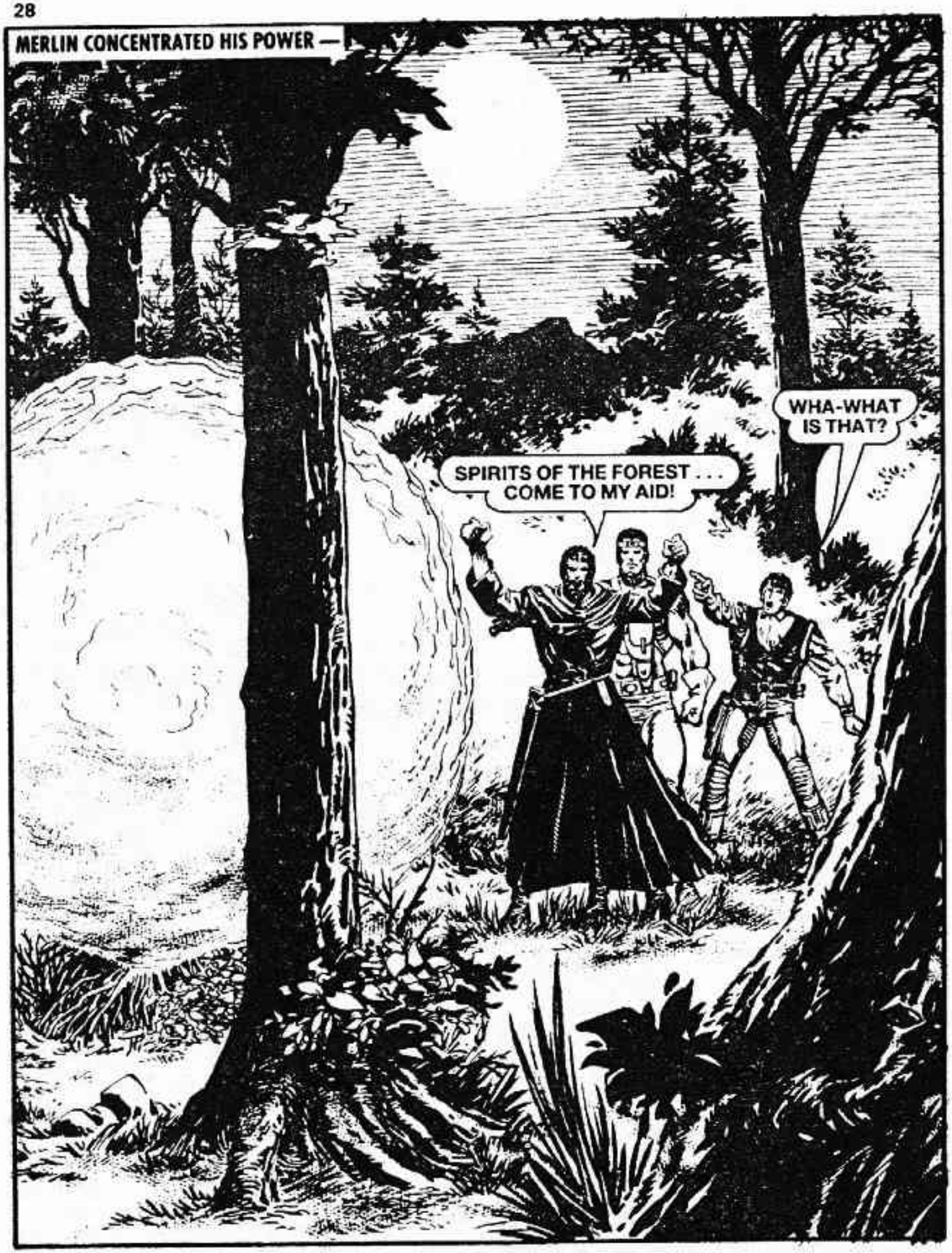
IT IS POWERLESS IN HIS HANDS! ONLY THE RIGHTFUL OWNER CAN CALL UPON ITS MAGIC!
CAN YOU BE SURE OF THIS, MERLIN?

CARTER HEARD A NAME WHICH STRUCK A CHORD IN HIS MEMORY: A NAME WHICH BROUGHT BACK THE DIM RECOLLECTION OF A HISTORY LESSON AT THAALUS CENTRAL JUNIOR ACADEMY . . .
COWARDS! I — MERLIN — WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO FIGHT!
IT CAN'T BE!
CAN'T BE WHAT?

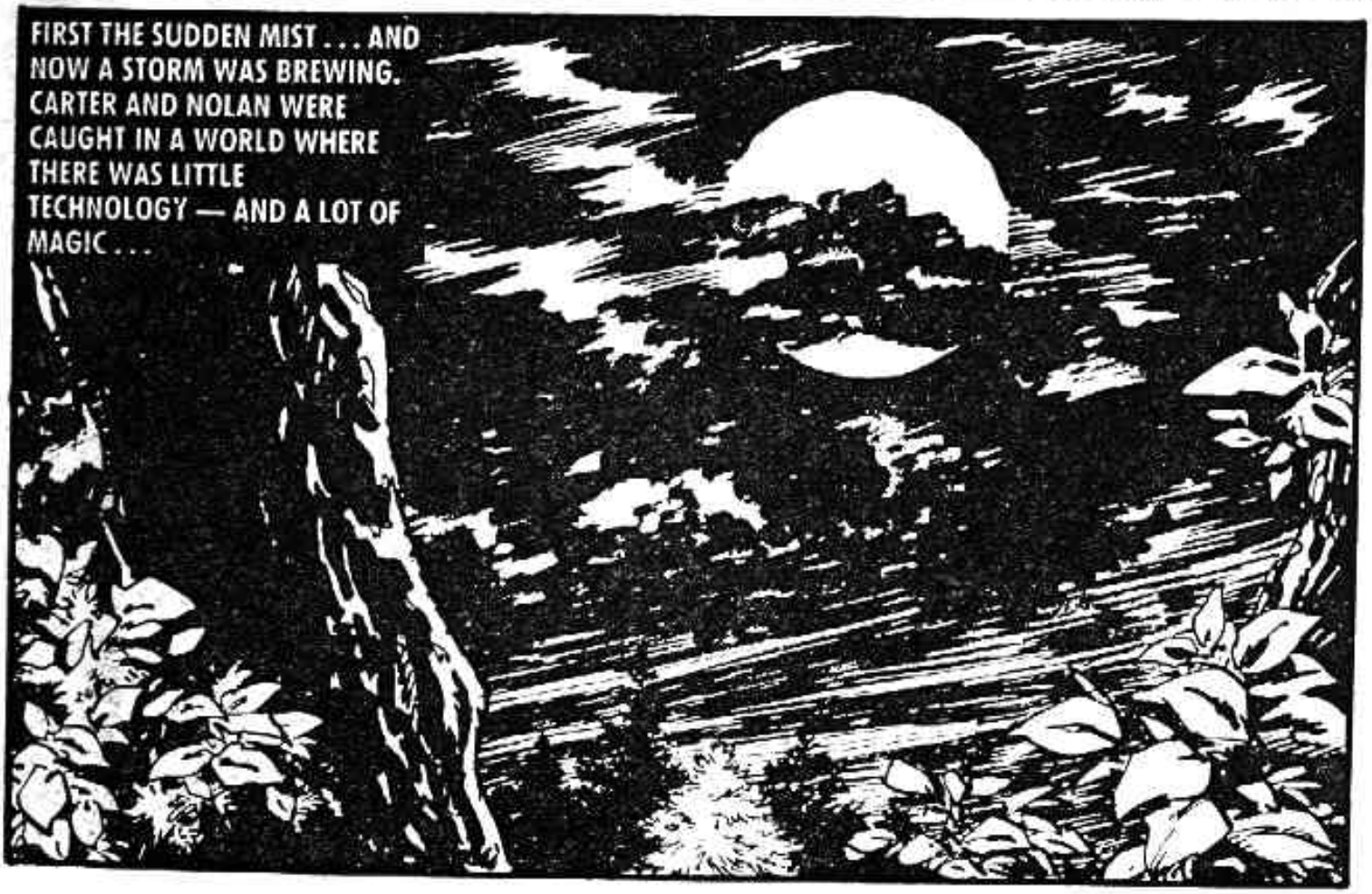
BUT BEFORE CARTER COULD EXPLAIN, MERLIN PRESSED HOME HIS ATTACK!
CLANG!
DIE!
CAREFUL, SIR! REMEMBER — YOU CAN'T RISK KILLING HIM!
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO DISARM HIM!
TLAC!

THIS MAN IS THEIR LEADER AND THEY WON'T DO ANYTHING TO RISK HIS LIFE! SO WE CAN USE HIM AS A HOSTAGE!
NICE WORK, SIR, ER . . . CARTER.

CARTER'S PLAN WAS WORKING — BUT THERE WAS A HITCH. MERLIN WAS NO ORDINARY MAN!
HE HAS EXCALIBUR! THE SWORD MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SACRED TREE TO AWAIT ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!
MOVE IT! WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT!


MERLIN CONCENTRATED HIS POWER —
SPIRITS OF THE FOREST . . . COME TO MY AID!
WHA-WHAT IS THAT?

MERLIN SLIPPED AWAY AS THE MIST ENVELOPED CARTER AND NOLAN.
SOME KIND OF MIST! IT FEELS COLD . . . AND CLAMMY!
NOW I WILL REGAIN EXCALIBUR!
THE MIST HAS GONE — AND SO HAS OUR HOSTAGE!
FORGET HIM! LET'S GET BACK TO THE SHIP!


FIRST THE SUDDEN MIST . . . AND NOW A STORM WAS BREWING. CARTER AND NOLAN WERE CAUGHT IN A WORLD WHERE THERE WAS LITTLE TECHNOLOGY — AND A LOT OF MAGIC . . .

AN ELECTRICAL STORM!
OUR SHIP IS PROTECTED — BUT WE'RE NOT! I DON'T RELISH THE PROSPECT OF BEING FRIED BY A FEW MILLION VOLTS OF RAW ENERGY!

THEN—
UH-OH! WE HAVE COMPANY!
SOMEBODY IN FANCY DRESS! PROBABLY TRYING TO SCARE US — BUT I DON'T SCARE SO EASILY.

BUT AT THAT MOMENT A SMALL BALL OF LIGHTNING HIT THE BLADE!
WHAT THE . . .?!!!

CARTER FELT A MASSIVE ELECTRICAL CHARGE RUN THROUGH HIS BODY!
AAAGGGHHH! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, NOLAN!
THE SWORD, SIR . . . DROP IT!

THAT'S BETTER!
RUN FOR IT!

THE STORM PASSED AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD COME.
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THAT SWORD WHERE IT WAS!
IT WAS STUPID OF ME — I AGREE. BUT POLICEMEN ARE NATURALLY INQUISITIVE. NEXT TIME I'LL TRY TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS.

MEANWHILE . . .
I THANK YOU, SPIRITS OF THE FOREST! EXCALIBUR WILL BE RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE. AND THERE TO AWAIT THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE INTO A NEW AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT!
ON BOARD THE SHIP —
MAIN POWER UNIT WILL BE READY FOR THE NEXT TIME JUMP IN 59.776 SECONDS.
GOOD! NOW GIVE ME THE READINGS ON THE ELECTRICAL STORM. IT CAME ON QUICKLY . . . TOO QUICKLY FOR MY LIKING.

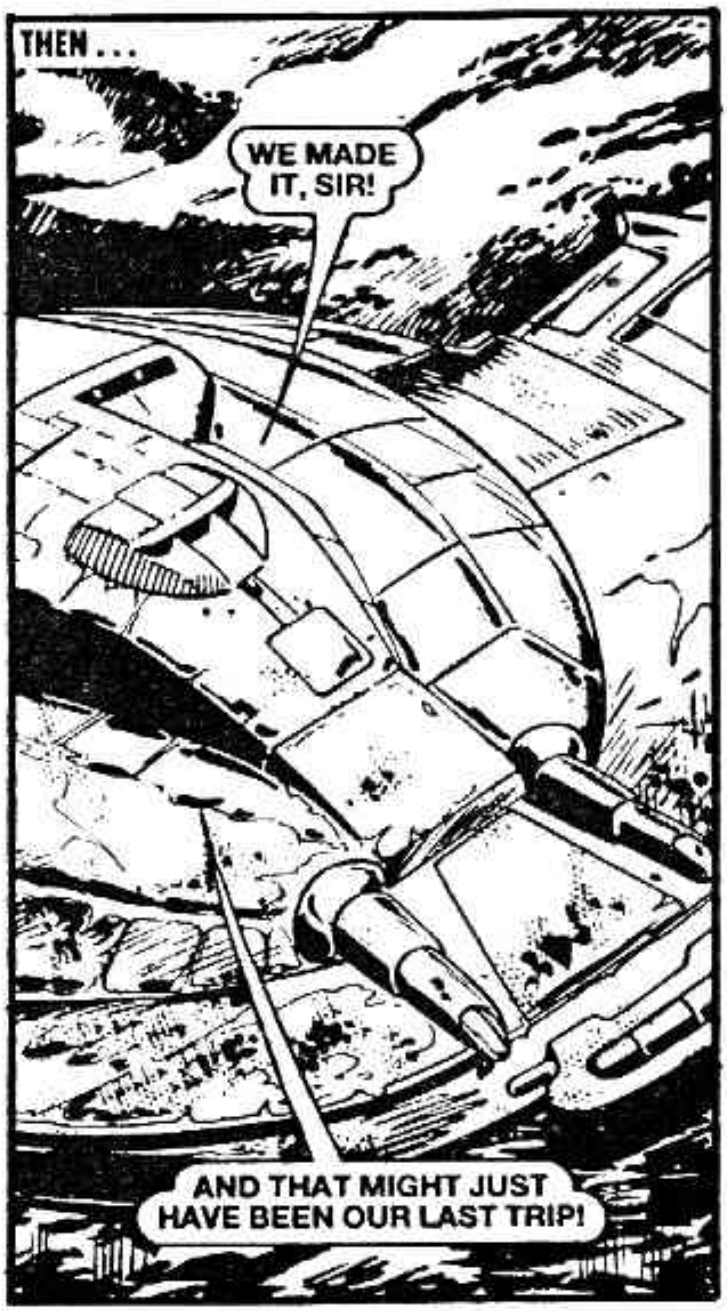
THERE HAS BEEN NO ELECTRICAL STORM. ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS HAVE REMAINED WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE SAW IT!

THAT MAN USED THE NAME MERLIN IN THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE MERLIN WAS THE MAGICIAN.
AND YOU THINK . . .? BUT THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITION! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!

AN ELECTRICAL STORM WHICH WASN'T PICKED UP BY OUR SENSORS — AND A BURNED SLEEVE WITHOUT A SCORCH MARK! PERHAPS OUR FRIEND MERLIN REALLY DID HAVE FRIENDS IN STRANGE PLACES!

SIT TIGHT!

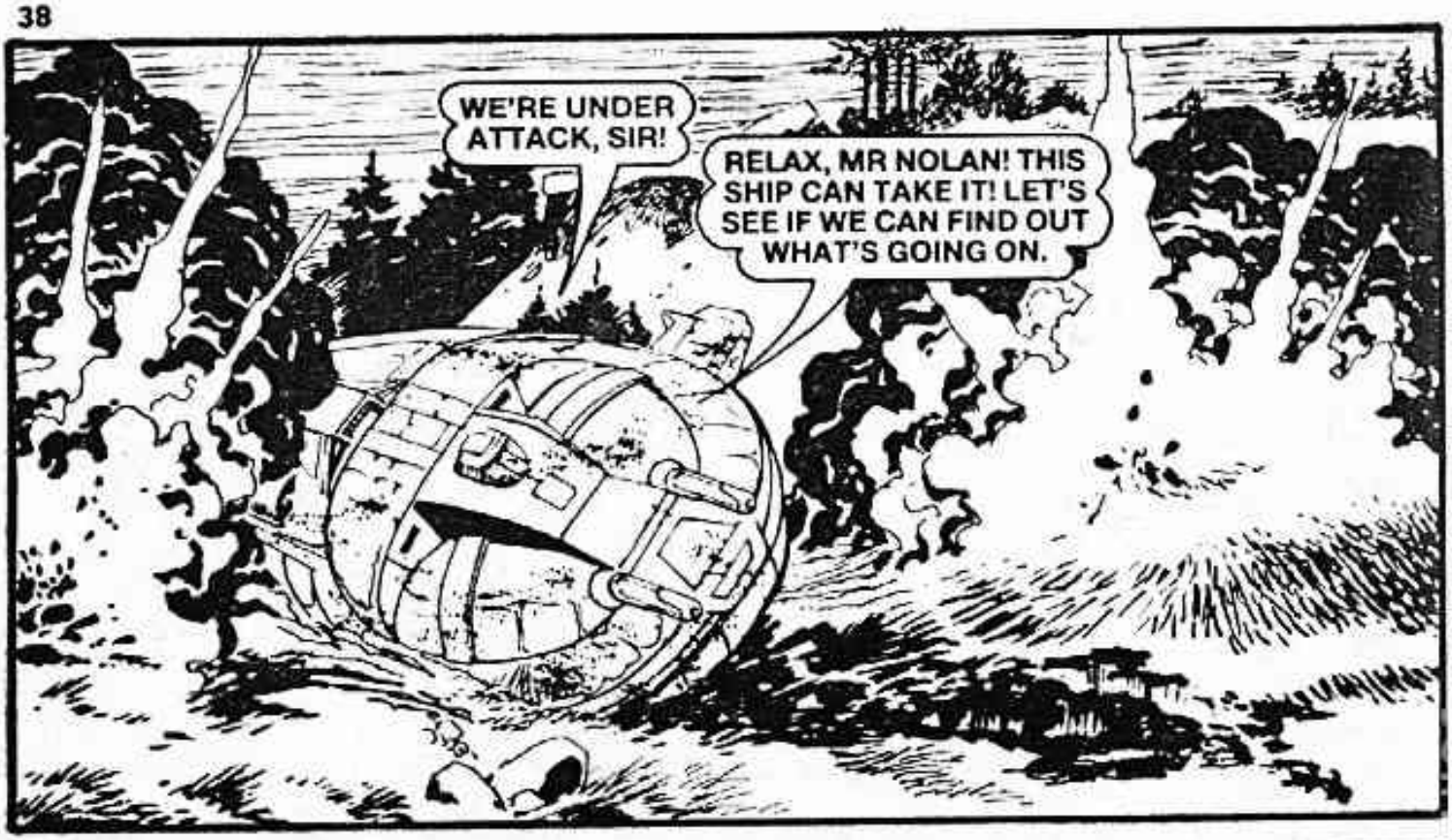
THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER SPECULATION — JUST TIME ENOUGH FOR CARTER AND NOLAN TO STRAP THEMSELVES IN AS THE SHIP WAS HURTLED THROUGH ANOTHER SLICE OF TIME.


THEN . . .
WE MADE IT, SIR!
AND THAT MIGHT JUST HAVE BEEN OUR LAST TRIP!

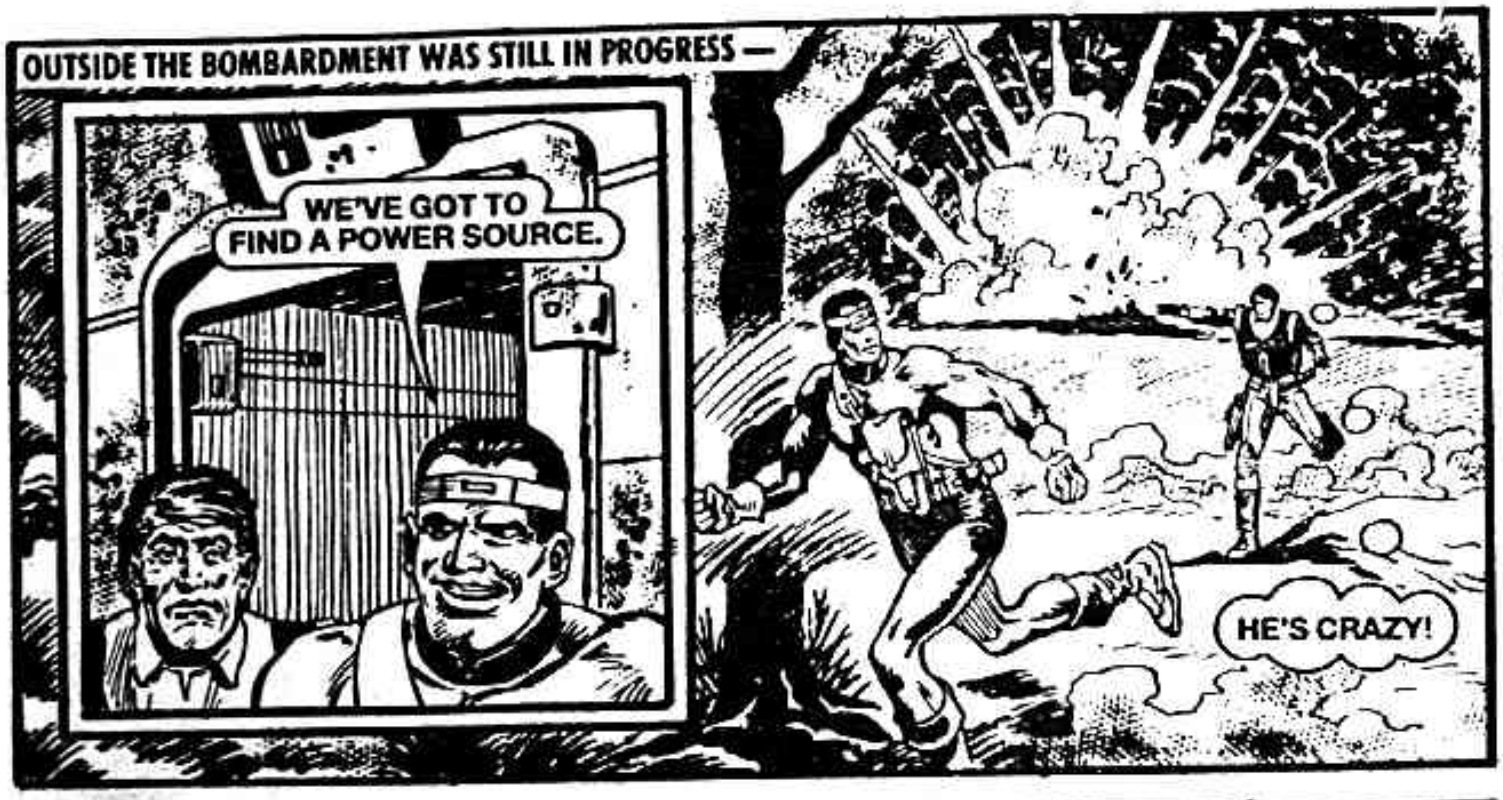
WE'VE BEEN LOSING ENERGY FROM OUR SUB-PHOTONIC DRIVE. IT DIDN'T SHOW UP ON THE SENSORS BECAUSE OF A FAULT IN THE CIRCUIT.
ANY GOOD NEWS, SIR?
WE'RE ALIVE — WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT? AND WITH A BIT OF LUCK THINGS OUT THERE MAY BE A BIT MORE CIVILISED. AT A ROUGH GUESS I'D SAY WE'RE SOMEWHERE IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

HOW DOES THAT HELP US?
TLAC
TLAC
THEY MAY HAVE DEVELOPED SOME FORM OF ENERGY WE CAN USE, MR NOLAN. AND IF SO, WE MERELY BORROW SOME TO HELP US ON OUR WAY.

THERE WAS PLENTY OF ENERGY ABOUT — AND IT WAS BEING PUT TO USE BY TWO OPPOSING FACTIONS. FOR THE YEAR WAS 1915 AND THE TWO VISITORS FROM THE FUTURE HAD LANDED IN AN AREA OF FRANCE KNOWN AS THE SOMME . . .
FIRE!
SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP A NUMBER OF PROJECTILES HEADING THIS WAY. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS ARE IMMINENT.
EH?


WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, SIR!
RELAX, MR NOLAN! THIS SHIP CAN TAKE IT! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

THE EXPLOSIONS ROCKED THE SHIP.
ARE THEY SHOOTING AT US, SIR?
I DON'T THINK SO! I'VE BEEN COLLECTING DATA AND I'VE FINALLY GOT A FIX ON THE TIME. IT SEEMS WE HAVE ARRIVED AT AN INAPPROPRIATE MOMENT!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR, MR NOLAN! AND I DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!
ARE YOU CRAZY? WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


OUTSIDE THE BOMBARDMENT WAS STILL IN PROGRESS —
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A POWER SOURCE.
HE'S CRAZY!

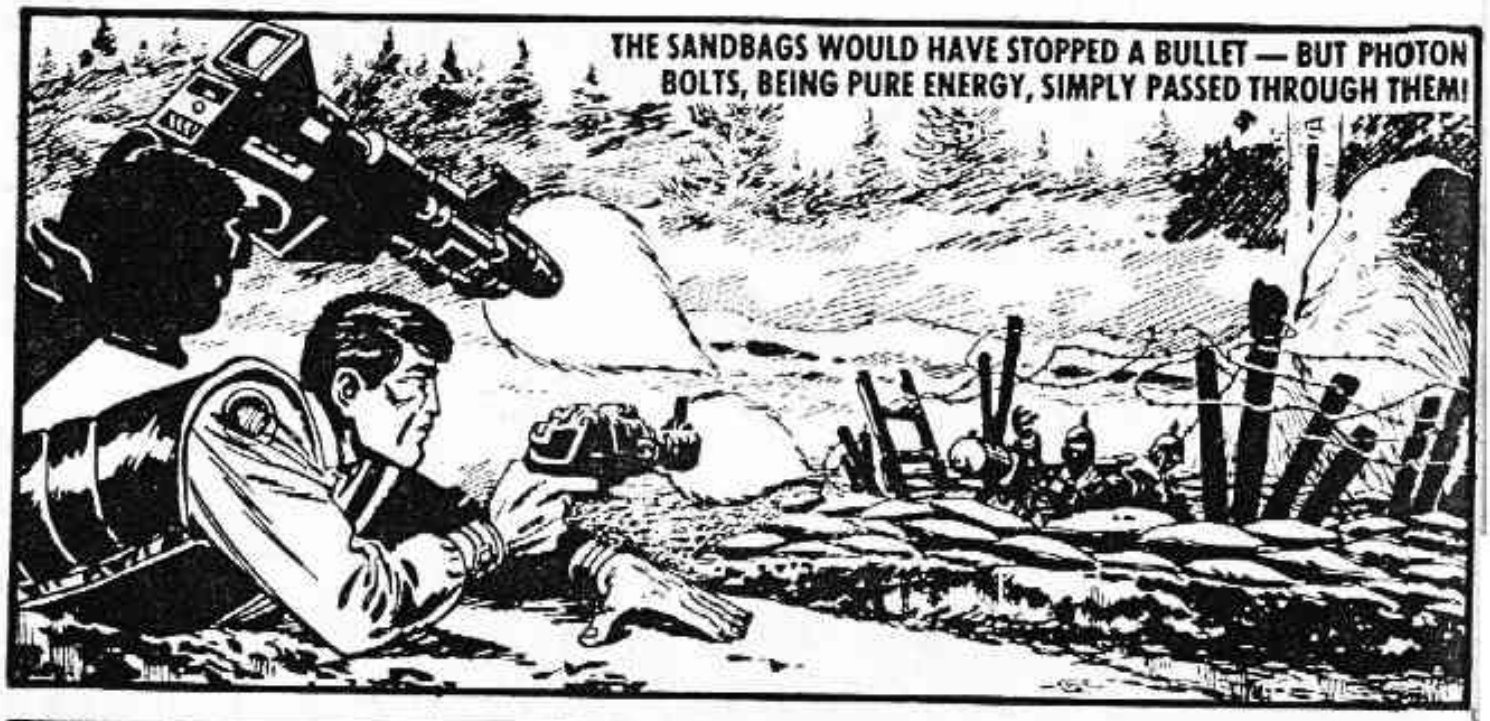
JUST THEN . . .
AAAGGGHHH!
THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!
BOOMMM!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
METAL FRAGMENTS FROM THOSE PROJECTILES! THEY HIT ME IN THE SHOULDER.
BARBARIANS . . . AND THE KILLING STILL GOES ON!
YES . . . WE'VE LEARNED NOTHING FROM HISTORY!

IT'S STOPPED!
AND WHAT HAPPENS IF WE GET SHOT AT? WE CAN'T EVEN DEFEND OURSELVES!

CARTER HAD THOUGHT OF THAT —
YES, WE CAN! SET YOUR PISTOL ON MILD STUN. AS LONG AS OUR INTERFERENCE DOESN'T ALTER THE OUTCOME OF THIS WAR WE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. NOW LET'S GET OUT OF THIS STINKING CESSPIT!

BUT . . .
OH-OH! I KNEW I WAS GOING TO REGRET THIS!
SHUT UP, NOLAN!


THE SANDBAGS WOULD HAVE STOPPED A BULLET — BUT PHOTON BOLTS, BEING PURE ENERGY, SIMPLY PASSED THROUGH THEM!

THEY'LL WAKE UP VERY SHORTLY WITH NOTHING WORSE THAN A HEADACHE!
AND WE STAND OUT A MILE IN THESE CLOTHES! I SUGGEST WE BORROW THEIRS.
YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'D BETTER GET THESE UNIFORMS!

NOT FAR AWAY . . .
THE BARRAGE HAS STOPPED! BUT THE TOMMIES HAVEN'T COME!
PERHAPS IT WAS ARTILLERY COVER FOR A BRITISH PATROL.

HALT!
GERMANS! I STUDIED PRE-GALACTIC EARTH LANGUAGES, SO LEAVE THE TALKING TO ME!
THE GERMANS WERE SUSPICIOUS. AND CARTER'S UNIFORM DIDN'T HELP. HE GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A MAN WHOSE UNIFORM HAD SHRUNK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN NO-MAN'S LAND?
WE'RE LOST!

THEY HAVE NO WEAPONS — SO THEY MUST BE DESERTERS!
OR SPIES!
THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT US!

TUMP!
CARTER'S REACTIONS WERE FAST — AND TOOK THE GERMANS BY SURPRISE.
HIMMEL!
IT SEEMS WE'RE STILL IN TROUBLE!

HELP!
BANG

TUD!
. . . I'LL JUST PERSUADE HIM TO STOP TRYING TO KILL US!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT . . .
STOP, OR WE SHOOT!
I SUGGEST WE SURRENDER! THE WEAPONS MAY BE PRIMITIVE BY OUR STANDARDS — BUT THEY'LL LEAVE YOU JUST AS DEAD!

AS SOON AS THEY DISCOVER WE STOLE THESE UNIFORMS THEY'LL SHOOT US AS SPIES!
YES . . . BUT AT LEAST WE'LL BE BORN AGAIN . . . SOMETIME.

I DON'T INTEND DYING JUST YET!
JUST THEN . . .
HIMMEL! BRITISH AIRMEN!
HERE'S OUR CHANCE!

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

ONCE AGAIN LUCK APPEARED TO BE ON THEIR SIDE AS THE PLANE WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE!
RUN . . . AND KEEP RUNNING!
DON'T WORRY! THAT'S JUST WHAT I INTEND TO DO!

THE AIR ATTACK GAVE THEM THEIR CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY. AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE NIGHT FELL . . .
NO WONDER WARS WERE BANNED! THIS PLACE REMINDS ME OF A NIGHTMARE I ONCE HAD.
YOU'RE LUCKY, NOLAN. YOU WOKE UP — THESE MEN DIDN'T!

JUST THEN . . .
HALT!

CARTER DREW HIS PISTOL AND FIRED SO FAST THAT THE GERMAN DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HIT HIM.
AAAAAAGGGH!

BUT . . .
HE'S STOPPED BREATHING!
JUPE! MY PISTOL SELECTOR SWITCH IS ON 25% I MUST HAVE JARRED IT WHEN I FELL DOWN!

25% WAS MEANT TO STUN A LARGE ANIMAL — AND ONLY A FEW MEN HAD EVER SURVIVED A DIRECT HIT ON THAT SETTING.
IT MUST HAVE AFFECTED HIS CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM! I'LL GIVE HIM A SHOT OFF STIMULOL!

CARTER KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT MEDICINE. IT WAS A SUBJECT HE HAD GROWN FAMILIAR WITH DURING THE LONG MONTHS HE'D SPENT IN HOSPITAL WHEN HE HAD BEEN RECONSTRUCTED.
THERE'S A CHANCE I MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM! BUT FIRST WE'D BETTER FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.

THERE WAS A RUINED VILLAGE NEARBY — AND CARTER CARRIED THE GERMAN INTO THE CELLAR OF ONE OF THE HOUSES.
HOW IMPORTANT?
ACCORDING TO THIS, HE IS A MESSENGER IN THE 2ND BAVARIAN REGIMENT. HE'S CARRYING AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO HEADQUARTERS.

VERY! YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT GETS THERE, NOLAN! FOR IF IT DOESN'T IT MAY ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY . . . AND OUR FUTURE WITH IT!
YOU FORGET, SIR — I DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE!

CARTER TORE A STRIP FROM THE BLOODSTAINED SHIRT HE'D TAKEN FROM THE DEAD GERMAN.
YOU'VE BEEN WOUNDED IN THE THROAT! NOW GET GOING!
YES, SIR!

SO THIS IS ADOLF HITLER . . . YOU LEAD GERMANY TO ANOTHER WAR — I SHOULD LET YOU DIE, BUT I CAN'T INTERFERE WITH HISTORY.
BUT . . .
HIS PULSE IS IRREGULAR. UNLESS I ACT FAST, HE'LL TERMINATE!
CARTER TURNED HIS PHOTON PISTOL DOWN TO ITS LOWEST SETTING . . .
I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND JOLT YOUR HEART BACK TO NORMAL RHYTHM — AND THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY I KNOW HOW!
GGHHHHHH!!!

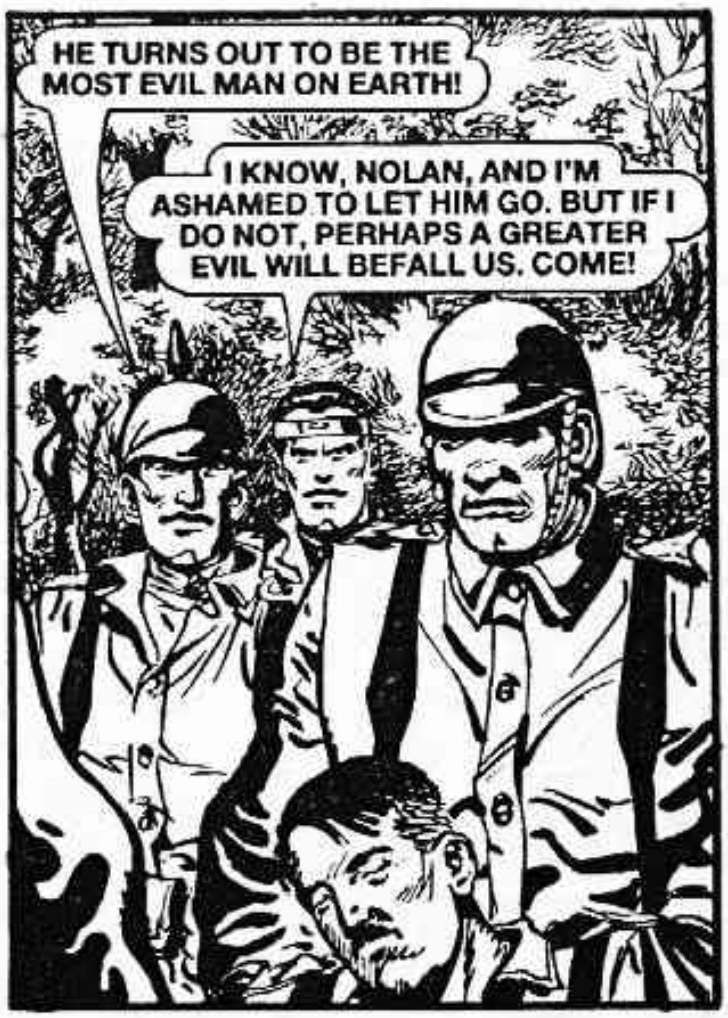
MEANWHILE, NOLAN HAD ALSO RUN INTO TROUBLE . . .
HALT!

THE GERMANS AIMED THEIR WEAPONS AT HIM. IT WAS THE FRONT LINE — AND NERVES WERE TAUT.
IDENTIFY YOURSELF! EH . . . HE CANNOT SPEAK!

FOR HEADQUARTERS? WOLFGANG . . . TAKE IT, DOUBLE QUICK!
THAT'S THAT . . . NOW TO MAKE MYSELF SCARCE.

CARTER ARRIVED —
WHAT THE . . . ?
HE IS WOUNDED — GET HIM TO A FIRST AID STATION.

IT IS CORPORAL HITLER, FROM THE 2ND BAVARIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT! GET HIM TO THE AID STATION!


HE TURNS OUT TO BE THE MOST EVIL MAN ON EARTH!
I KNOW, NOLAN, AND I'M ASHAMED TO LET HIM GO. BUT IF I DO NOT, PERHAPS A GREATER EVIL WILL BEFALL US. COME!

MORE SHELLING!
BROOM

IS IT MY IMAGINATION — OR ARE THOSE EXPLOSIONS GETTING CLOSER?
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER — AND OUR SHIP IS DIRECTLY IN THEIR PATH!

THIS COULD BE OUR WAY OUT!
IT COULD?
THOSE EXPLOSIONS CONTAIN RAW ENERGY — AND ENERGY IS WHAT WE USE TO MAKE THE TIME SHIFT. PERHAPS WE CAN BORROW ENOUGH OF IT TO GET US ALL THE WAY HOME IN ONE GO!

IF WE MAKE THE SHIFT AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THOSE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES HIT THE SHIP, WE CAN ABSORB THE ENERGY. AND THAT SHOULD GIVE US THE EXTRA BOOST WE NEED!

YOU'RE A GENIUS!
I KNOW!

BUT FATE WAS ABOUT TO DEAL THEM A CRUEL BLOW . . .
FIRE!
BROOOOMMM!

ONE SHELL DROPPED SHORT AND LANDED CLOSE TO THE SHIP . . .
BRROOUUUM
AAARRRRRGGGAH

MY THROAT . . . IT'S BURNING!
HOLD YOUR BREATH! IT'S SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL!
IT WAS MUSTARD GAS.

I CAN'T SEE!
ONCE WE GET BACK OUR MEDICAL SERVICES WILL SOON FIND A CURE!
THOSE EXPLOSIONS ARE GETTING CLOSER. IN 30 SECONDS THEY WILL HIT US. SHIELDS ARE UP AND THE SHIP IS PROTECTED.

YOU HAVE TO KEY IN THE TIME SHIFT SEQUENCE! BUT HOW CAN YOU IF WE'RE BOTH BLIND?

CARTER STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET . . .
IT'S HOPELESS!

CARTER STUMBLED AS HE TRIED TO FIND THE CONSOLE.
MUST FIND IT!
2

TWENTY SECONDS TO IMPACT.
THE LONGER WE STAY IN THIS LIMBO, THE GREATER THE CHANCE WE MAY ALTER THE FUTURE.

AND HOW MANY TIME SHIFTS WILL WE HAVE TO MAKE BEFORE WE GET BACK? TEN . . . TWENTY . . . A HUNDRED? WE MAY NEVER GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN, MR NOLAN!

CARTER LOCATED THE CONTROL PANEL AND HEAVED HIMSELF INTO THE SEAT.
GIVE ME MANUAL CONTROL!
YOU HAVE MANUAL CONTROL. TEN SECONDS TO IMPACT.

THE SHIP ROCKED AS THE BARRAGE CREPT CLOSER. TIME WAS RUNNING OUT . . .
NOW!
THE NEXT SALVO STRUCK THE CRAFT—

TWO HOURS LATER . . .
IT'S A FEDERATION POLICE PATROL CRAFT. BUT THEY DON'T RESPOND TO OUR SIGNALS.
ENGAGE TRACTOR BEAM. WE'LL GO ABOARD AND INVESTIGATE.

THEY'RE ALIVE! SOME SORT OF MALFUNCTION MUST HAVE INJURED THEM!

TWO WEEKS LATER, NOLAN AND CARTER WERE FIT ENOUGH TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE PAROLE JUMPER.
ALL THAT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS DID HAPPEN, DIDN'T IT?
YES! BUT WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE US?

BACK AT HQ —

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